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Keep waste cleanup fight going — Foster residents

By NADIA PUHAK
Standard-Speaker Staff Writer
2.9 EPA HW

Foster Township residents should not give up their fight against toxic wastes just because the C & D Recycling plant is listed for federal cleanup, according to one resident.

Jane Sulima said getting on the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Superfund roster is only half the battle, and that people who live near Pond Creek must continue to push for a total cleanup of the lead-contaminated site.

"People seem to think that this is the end of it, that we made it," Ms. Sulima said. "But getting listed to Superfund doesn't mean our problems are over. Especially since Superfund could end as of Sept. 30."

The five-year act that sets aside money to be used for hazardous waste site reclamation will end later this month. Congress has not decided the future of the program yet.

"It's a shame that Congress can dilly-dally around to find money for life when they can very easily and quickly appropriate money for deaths in amounts that would

make Superfund money pale by comparison," Ms. Sulima said, pointing to nuclear weapons manufacturing as a reason why more money is not channeled to Superfund.

She also expressed concern that the federal government spent a lot of money recently to ensure the health of Americans in the Soviet Union who came in contact with a possibly carcinogenic "spy powder."

"And yet, they drag anchor when it comes to cleaning up toxic waste sites which affect thousands here in the United States," Ms. Sulima said. "It's as if our government has a double standard."

Regardless of how long it may take for the federal government to allocate the proper funds and begin cleaning up the contamination in Foster Township, Ms. Sulima said she is happy that some action is finally being taken.

She urges residents to take ad-

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period to make their opinions and factual data about the site known to the federal government. The two months for residents' views to be expressed will be announced by EPA when a public relations person is assigned to the site.

Ms. Sulima also pointed out that the government will have to decide if the C & D cleanup will be handled primarily on the state or federal level. She is hopeful that the state Department of Environmental Resources will conduct the project because representatives from that office are familiar with the problems and progress at the site.

Emil Evancho, another township resident and former supervisor, said he also would like to see the state government in charge of the cleanup. "I believe the DER would do a better job because we have more contact with them. We're taking a step forward and I would like to see that continued through prompt action by the DER."

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